

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

LAND RECLAMATION, ABANDONED MINED LAND

CODE 543

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly maintained abandoned mined land reclamation project can be an asset to the property. The reclamation project was designed and installed to reduce erosion, improve water quality and/or improve safety by treating in-place materials, mine spoil, mine waste, or overburden. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of the project can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- The treatment should be inspected at least annually and especially after heavy rains to determine whether areas of settlement have adversely affected drainage and land use. Make needed repairs. The annual inspection also shall include an inventory of the vegetation and eroded areas. Repair and revegetate as needed.
- Appurtenances such as diversions, structures, and other conveyance systems shall be kept free of trash and repaired when needed. Remove debris that may accumulate around the treatment area. If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Eroded areas shall be regraded, seeded, and fertilized.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Fertilize as needed to maintain a uniform vigorous stand. Annual soil testing shall be used to determine needed soil amendments. Noxious weeds and invasive species shall be removed.
- Supporting practices are to be maintained according to their specific Operation and Maintenance Plans. This includes the access road(s), drainage structures and channels, etc.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to the treatment area. Foot and vehicle traffic over the area should be controlled by fencing or other means.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity.

